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A new species of the spider genus *Notsodipus* (Araneae: Lamponidae) from Western Australia

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Abstract – A new species of the ground spider family Lamponidae, *Notsodipus linnaei*, is described from Western Australia.

INTRODUCTION

The 11 genera of centrotheline lamponids are known only from Australia (including Tasmania), New Guinea, and New Caledonia, and five of them (*Bigenditia* Platnick 2000, *Prionosternum* Dunn 1951, Asadipus Simon 1897, *Notsodipus* Platnick 2000, and *Longepi* Platnick 2000) are conspicuous members of the Western Australian ground spider fauna (Platnick 2000). Of these, *Asadipus* and *Notsodipus* are the most speciose, and in both cases over half their species occur in Western Australia. We describe here a new species of *Notsodipus* recently collected at Mount Gibson, and are pleased to participate in this celebration of the legacy of Carolus Linnaeus.

Our methods, and the format of the description, follow those used in the monograph of Platnick (2000).

SYSTEMATICS

Family Lamponidae Simon 1893

Subfamily Centrothelinae Platnick 2000

Notsodipus Platnick 2000

Notsodipus Platnick 2000: 269.

Type species

Notsodipus ***dalby*** Platnick 2000, by original designation.

Remarks

The genus *Notsodipus* occurs over much of mainland Australia, and is particularly abundant in the drier regions of the continent (Platnick 2000). There are currently 17 named species (Platnick 2000).

Notsodipus linnaei new species

Figures 1A–B

Material examined

Holotype

Australia: ***Western Australia*:** ♂, Mount Gibson iron-ore mine, Banded Ironstone Range, Iron Hill west facing, 29°36'10"S, 117°10'20"E (GPS), 30 April–11 May 2005, M.S. Harvey, S. Thompson, wet pitfall trap (WAM T82881).

Paratype

Australia: ***Western Australia*:** 1 ♂, Mount Gibson iron-ore mine, Ironstone Slope, Iron Hill east facing, 29°36'08"S, 117°10'27"E (GPS), 15–30 April 2005, S. Thompson, wet pitfall trap (WAM T82880).

Diagnosis

Because the ventral prong of the terminal apophysis terminates in a single sharp point, the tegulum has only a tiny proximal projection, the embolus extends only to the distal portion of the tegulum, the dorsal prong of the terminal apophysis does not form a tube-shaped structure behind the ventral prong and does not bear a prolaterally directed spur, and the retrolateral tibial apophysis is relatively short and has a relatively narrow base, males will key out to *Notsodipus quobba* Platnick, and may represent the sister species of *N. quobba*, as these two species uniquely share a subdistal projection on the dorsal prong of the terminal apophysis. Males of *N. linnaei* can be distinguished by having that projection directed prolaterally rather than distally, and by the larger tip of the dorsal prong of the terminal apophysis.

Description

Male (based on holotype)

Total length 3.1. Abdominal dorsum seemingly uniformly gray under scutum, venter unmarked. Leg spination: tibia III v0-0-1p. Retrolateral tibial apophysis relatively short, narrow at base; terminal apophysis with ventral prong terminating in single sharp point, dorsal prong wide, recurved, bearing subdistal, prolaterally directed projection (Figures 1A–B).

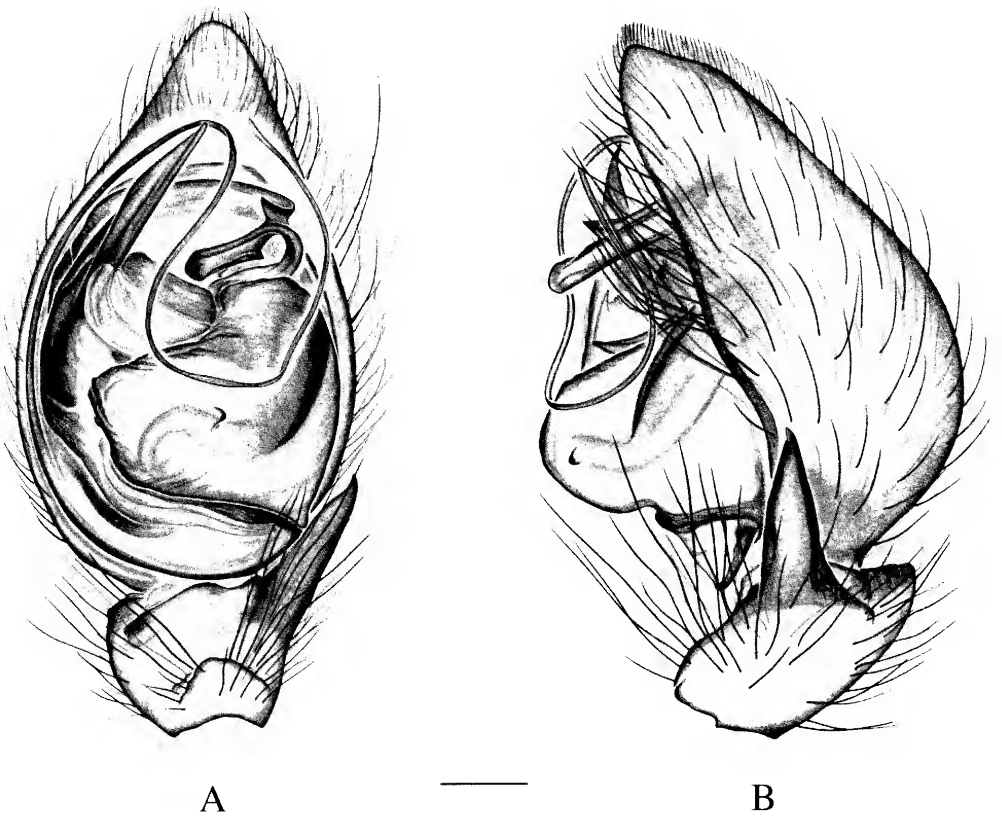

Figure 1 *Notsodipus linnaei* sp. nov, male holotype: A, left palp, ventral view; B, same, retrolateral view. Scale bar = 0.1 mm.

Female

Unknown.

Other material examined

None.

Distribution

Known only from Mount Gibson, Western Australia.

Etymology

The specific epithet in a patronym in honor of the founder of binomial nomenclature.

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REFERENCE

Platnick, N.I. (2000). A relimitation and revision of the Australasian ground spider family Lamponidae (Araneae: Gnaphosidae). *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* **245:** 1–330.

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